



Location - From the Montana state line south on U.S. 93 to Challis, then west to Stanley on Idaho 75.

Length - 161.7 miles. Allow 3.5 hours.

Roadway - Two-lane, paved road with no passing lanes and some 25-mph curves.

When to see it - Best weather for travel is April to November, although access to the back country is best from July to October.

Special attractions - Sacajawea Interpretive Center; Salmon spawning beds at Indian Riffles; Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center; Tower Rock; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) National Historic Trail; Salmon Wild and Scenic River; Middle Fork Salmon Wild and Scenic River; Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness; Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; natural hot springs and ghost towns.

Camping - Salmon River, Riverside, Mormon Bend, Basin Creek, Upper and Lower O'Brien, Holman Creek, East Fork, Bayhorse, Spring Gulch, Cottonwood, Shoup Bridge, Tower Rock, Twin Creek.

Services - Full services in Stanley, Challis, Salmon, North Fork; partial services in Clayton, Gibbonsville.

Contacts - Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: 800-727-2540, info@salmonchamber.com, www.salmonchamber.com, www.salmonbyway.com; Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: 208-774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Stanley Ranger Station: 208-774-3000; Sawtooth National Recreation Area: 208-727-5013; Salmon-Challis National Forests: 208-756-5100; www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc; Yankee Fork Ranger District: 208-838-3300; Challis Ranger District: 208-879-4100; North Fork Ranger District: 208-865-2700; Salmon District Bureau of Land Management: 208-756-5400; Audio tape tours available for Stanley to Challis & Challis to Salmon.

Salmon River Scenic Byway

The northern end of the Salmon River Scenic Byway begins on the Montana border at the Lost Trail Pass (elevation 6,995 feet). Lewis and Clark came this way in 1805, and the spectacular view from this vantage point has changed little since that famous exploration of the West two centuries ago. The route follows the Salmon River — also called the River of No Return — through the Salmon-Challis National Forest through the historic city of Salmon. The river and its forks serve as important natural pathways into Idaho's rugged back country. The deer, elk, and moose that often graze along the hills and meadows that line this road provide a glimpse of the wild country beyond.

Along the way, the town of Challis and the Land of the Yankee Fork Historic Area are just two points of interest, the latter being among Idaho's most famous mining areas. And as you head southwest along Idaho 75 toward Stanley, you'll begin to see glimpses of the majestic Sawtooth Mountains ahead before beholding their full splendor as you drop into town.

